

LANTERN Spring 1982

LANTERN is a quarterly magazine of East Anglian mysteries and curiosities, comprising of NEWS, NOTES, ARTICLES, and REVIEWS. It is published by the BORDERLINE SCIENCE INVESTIGATION GROUP, a non-profit organisation devoted to the investigation of unexplained phenomena in East Anglia.

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* INTRODUCTION

Well, here we are again (and almost on schedule this time!).

It's strange how things seem to move in circles; 10 years ago, when the BSIG was first formed, the Group gave a lot of attention to a book entitled Ghosts of the Broads by Charles Sampson - in fact for a time it was almost the sole reference book on local ghosts that the Group consulted. In fact BSIG members spent many long (and futile) hours waiting in cold, dark and uncomfortable locations hoping to see at least one of apparitions mentioned in it's pages. As time passed the members of BSIG became increasingly aware that all was not as it seemed in this book; and even went as far as discovering that some of the stories recorded therein were probably closer to fiction than fact, but, perhaps because the members of the BSIG did not want to admit they had been that they had been misled, no real research was ever carried out into the stories recorded in GOTB.

Finally this situation has been well and truly rectified. Mike Burgess has spent the past 18 months researching into the stories in GOTB, and we are very pleased to present his findings in this issue of LANTERN. This is not the place to pre-empt his research, suffice to say here that he has entitled his article 'Hoax of the Broads'.....

Ivan Bunn



The following has been received from Mr. & Mrs. K. Dinning:

"TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE ENDURED A CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH THE U.F.O. PHENOMENON:"
Are you, the Endurer of the above, ready for contacting other Endurers? If you think this is the right time to join us other Endurers, then by all means reply to us as soon as possible. BUT only if you are 'THOUGHTFULLY' convinced, it is YOUR right time to do so. You will know what we mean by that if it is the right time for you.

We are not, repeat NOT, another UFO society of any kind. We are NOT out to use you as magazine 'fodder'. Instead, we think more of ourselves as a Family, possibly your new family in a sense. Because of this we do not under any circumstances wish to be associated in any shape or form again with ego maniacs, self-appointed, so-called 'investigators', reputation hunters or any of the 'concerned' (but who really couldn't care less about YOU) profit seeker/makers. We are as you are, the KNOWING ENDURED. We are only concerned with you, about you and perhaps 'YOURS'.

As with our present lives, we are concerned with the present effect on your 'changed' lives today and in the Future. We want to help you and us, and to do it we cut thru the 'FOG' of '-isms' which have been created in this subject by the many self-created 'learneds' who dash into your life, express THEIR opinion as to what YOU were a witness to, and if it does not agree with their own personal unexperienced point of view, and who just as quickly dash out again screaming 'crank' or 'nutter'. We know who really needs that mirror....don't we?

We are concerned with your lives today and in the Future, but on a caring basis. Our experiences are as yours. We believe.....because we know WHAT we saw, just as you do. We are not looking for 'fodder', we are looking for YOU. How can the 'unexperienced' REALLY understand US???

Remember, you saw what you saw and NOT what others say you should have seen! If you feel shunned and outcast by others because of your experience, contact us and endure the present with us....THE ENDURERS.

Send a SAE to Mr.& Mrs.K.Dinning, c/o 'Merravay', 26 Norman Drive, Hall Hills, Tattershall Road, Boston, Lincs. PE21 9SG.



STRANGE OBJECT SEEN OVER THE WASH

At around 6.30pm on Thursday March 5th., 1982, a strange 'object' was seen in the sky over the Wash, north Norfolk. It was seen first by Mrs. Sally Jopson of Terrington St. Clement. Mrs.Jopson told the local press:

"When we looked through the binoculars and even with the naked eye it appeared to have red and green lights flashing. It was literally hovering over The Wash, then it moved along towards Lincolnshire hovered there, faded and then came back bright. It literally exploded into light."

Mrs.Jopson, her husband and several neighbours watched the object for about 15 minutes. Later that same evening, at around 8.45pm, Mrs.Jopson's husband took their dog out and saw the object again "...as bright as life..." Throughout the sighting there was no engine noise, and Mrs. Jopson is convinced that it was not an aeroplane. Neither the Kings Lynn Police nor a spokesman for RAF Marham were able to offer an explanation as to what it was that Mrs.Jopson and her

UFO NEWS

neighbours had seen.

The following afternoon residents of South Lynn saw a similar object in daylight. One of the witnesses, 36 year old Joan Smith, described a "big round object like a football" coming towards her and a local butcher. It was like "...a round ball with no wings, and all the time it had a silver light flashing..." Whilst they were watching the object the witnesses saw a 'plane go up and circle around it. The witnesses watched the object for about 15 minutes. The MoD said there could have been "100s of explanations for the object", but added that the RAF had no planes investigating anything in the area at that time. A spokesman for the CAA said there were no air routes over Lynn, although a private plane could have been there. FROM Lynn News & Advertiser, March 9th & 12th 1982. (Credit, Mike Dash)



HOAX OF THE BROADS



AN INVESTIGATION

BY

M.W. Burgess

In 1931, there was published by the Yachtsman Publishing Co. a book entitled 'GHOSTS OF THE BROADS'. It was written by one Charles Sampson, and arose out of a series of articles in 'The Yachtsman' magazine. It contained 25 chapters and 26 stories, each supposedly of an apparition then currently haunting that area of Norfolk called the Broads. In his introduction, Sampson claimed 25 years experience in collecting these tales.

In 1973, 'Ghosts of the Broads' was republished by Jarrolds of Norwich, and again reprinted in 1976. Since its first appearance, the ghost stories in this book seem to have entered the folklore of the region, and are often quoted as genuine traditions. In the early years of the BSIG we spent many hours at the various locations with our equipment in a vain hunt for Sampson's ghosts. This was a waste of time, since we now know that 90% of the book is SHEER FICTION!

Suspicion was first cast on Sampson's credibility in 1972, upon discovery that the principal characters in two of the stories had never in fact existed. I have now amassed a great deal of data (mostly negative) which demonstrates beyond doubt that Charles Sampson perpetrated a hoax on the East Anglian people. A clever, amusing, elaborate hoax with some dregs of truth in it - but a hoax nonetheless.

This deception has endured for over 50 years. I suspect that it will endure for many more, since those people (often summer tourists) who buy the book are unlikely ever to read this article. But no matter. The truth will out!

I had originally intended to set out in detail my case against Sampson, dealing with the book chapter by chapter, fact by fallacious fact. However, the sheer weight of material collected has now rendered this impossible. This article, therefore, merely skims the surface. Perhaps, in future issues of LANTERN, I can delve more deeply into some of the most well-known stories. At the end, I have appended a list of acknowledgements and a few of the main references used in my investigation. A complete list would occupy many pages.

Firstly though, what of Sampson himself? He was born Charles Adolphus Sampson in 1881 at Sheerness in Kent, and was the son of Admiral John G. Sampson, R.N. He was variously educated in medicine in London, Paris and Rome, and qualified from Charing Cross Hospital in 1905. He lived in London all his life, and had a surgery at first in Wimpole Street, and then Harley Street, where he practised as a surgeon specialising in the applications of psychotherapy. The list of qualifications, appointments and official posts held by him is very long. Among them were:

Licentiate of the Soc. of Apothecaries, 1905; Founder and Hon. Director of the London Clinic of Applied Psychology and Psychotherapy, 1908; Membership of the S.W. London Medical Society, the British Medical Association, and the Royal Institute of Medicine; Hon. Life-membership of the British Red Cross Society; Fellowship of the Royal Society of Medicine; President of the International Soc. of Applied Psychology, Paris.

He held a Captaincy in the Royal Army Medical Corps, was senior surgeon for the Clifton Military Hospital 1917-18, and psychotherapist to the Prince of Wales Hospital for Officers 1919-23. Besides 'Ghosts of the Broads', he produced several medical tracts and two books concerning cruises on his 1903 motor yacht, the 'Whitelady'. He was also the inventor of several pieces of marine equipment, including his 'Improved Marine Signalling Apparatus' (Patent No. 150,013; March 25th, 1919).

Marriage to Christine Amy Toppin produced two daughters and one son - Dr. Charles Anthony Joseph Sampson - who is living still in London, and who described his father to me (with perhaps an excess of filial praise) as "such a pleasant and beloved person", who "brought so much goodness and happiness into this world".

Sampson senior died on August 13th, 1940 at the early age of 59, from one or a combination of the recurrent illnesses that dogged his last years.

Oddly enough, the title 'GHOSTS OF THE BROADS' is rather a misnomer. Of the 26 tales, seven cannot strictly be termed 'ghost-stories', and only nine actually involve any of the Broads. Of the above anomalous seven, Barton Broad deals with a woman's face that appears filling the

lake, Burgh St. Peter with the Devil, Somerleyton with a giant, Horsey with a 'paradise-like' manifestation of Jesus, Stokesby with a Puck-like shape-changer, Hickling with a spirit raised by seance, and Stalham with two statues that come to life.

One point that should be raised here is the matter of the existence of the Broads themselves. In Sampson's time, it was thought that the Norfolk Broads were simply natural lakes. Not until the 1950s was it discovered that they are actually the remains of peat-digging that commenced perhaps as early as the 9th century, and continued until flooded by severe storms in the 14th or 15th. But in at least four of the stories, the basis for the historical background depends on a particular Broad existing at an earlier time. In Chapter 5, the action takes place on Salhouse Broad in the 11th century. In Chapter 7, a maiden and her lover are slain upon Barton Broad "in the days of the Crusades", which could be any time from 1096 to about 1250. In Chapter 9, a Viking lord of the 5th century is given a floating funeral on South Walsham Broad; and in Chapter 17, the Romans are said to have lowered the weighted bodies of dead children into Horsey Mere. But none of these lakes could have existed at those times!

In all but 7 of the tales, Sampson gives named witnesses to the phenomena. Lords, knights and scientists predominate, with clergy, military, J.P.s and professional people close behind, eg: Lord Percival Durand, Prof. Alexander Jardine, Sir Beaufort Craig, Admiral Sir John Haven-Gore, Dr. Neville Anderson Critt, Captain Bellamy Bliss G.C.B. 36 such full names and/or titles are given. NOT A SINGLE ONE EVER EXISTED!

Many other witnesses are given, usually local people of no distinction whom it is much harder to trace (and some are identified only by half-names or nicknames). Nevertheless, of these, I have so far managed to identify only one: in Chapter Ten (Horning), the unnamed story-teller speaking in 1931 mentions a man named John Holmes, who had allegedly witnessed the 'apparition' many times since he was a boy. I have found a 'John Holmes, Pork Butcher' resident in Horning in 1900.

Sampson also uses written sources to back up his stories, referring to various letters, books and manuscripts, such as the 'Gentleman's Gazette', 'Transactions of the London Metaphysical League', 'Norwich and County Gazette', a letter "from

Calder to Sheldon" in the 'Heiner Mss.', 'Epistolas Ecclesiasticum et Apostolicum'. All very plausible until careful research reveals that NONE OF THESE EVER EXISTED, EITHER!

The bibliography to 'Ghosts of the Broads' is a slightly different matter. It features 16 named works, three of which are noted earlier in the book. The three most well-known are 'Domesday Book', 'Heimskringla', and the 'Anglo-Saxon Chronicle', all of which are readily available in any public library, and contain absolutely nothing that has been used in 'Ghosts of the Broads'. So why list them? The 'Saga of Olaf Haraldsson' exists all right, but simply as a part of the 'Heimskringla', not on its own. As noted previously, the 'Gentleman's Gazette' never existed; nor did the 'Charter of Pastoralum', 'Repertorium Ecclesiasticum', the 'Book of Country Pastorals', or the 'Memoirs of Lady Alys'. Neither did their authors. The 'Scripta Historica Islandorum' is another plausible sounding title; it is fictitious, but is obviously based on the genuine ancient text known as the 'Libellus Islandorum'.

I have been unable to trace Buckley's 'History of England', but I wonder if the work referred to is actually 'History of Civilisation in England' by H.T. Buckle (2 volumes, 1857 & 1861)? As for the 'Caerwithen Papers, Fol. XIII-XIX', said by Sampson to be in the British Museum: well, the British Library has certainly never heard of them. The other works in the bibliography do exist, and two were used by Sampson to provide some of his background material. Mothersole's 'The Saxon Shore' contains all of the Roman information that Sampson used, and indeed, renders his mention of the 'Notitia Dignitatum' totally worthless.

Suffling's 'Land of the Broads' (1895) was another fruitful source for Charles Sampson, though not of the stories themselves. A comparison between Sampson (Jarrold edition) pp. 153-4 and Suffling pp. 167-70 demonstrates what is very nearly sheer plagiarism. That leaves Enraght's 'Ranworth', which is a slim booklet originally published in 1908 by the Rev. Canon H.J. Enraght, Vicar of Ranworth 1904-13. Enraght's brief mention of the 'Colonel Sidney' legend may have inspired, but contributed nothing to, Sampson's version. So much for the bibliography.

Upon reading 'Ghosts of the Broads', anyone familiar with the literature of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7.

'STONEPIX' NO.2

MUTFORD WOOD, SUFFOLK



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The strangely-shaped and strangely-standing stones in Mutford Wood, an illustration of which accompanies this notice, were discovered in the early part of March, 1870.

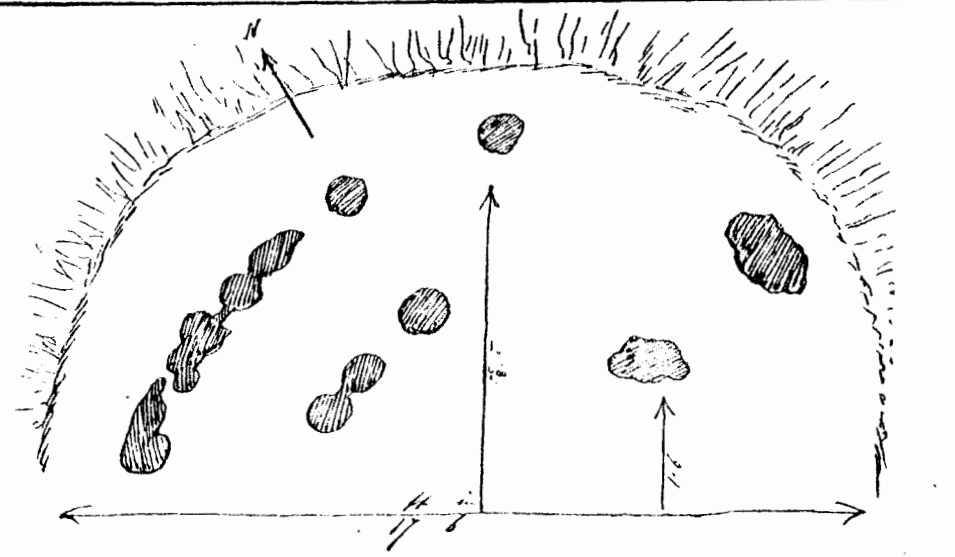
In a small natural hollow on the south-west side of the Wood, close by the road which runs from the parish of Carlton Colville to the village of Mutford, the Rev. W. H. Andrew's gamekeeper was digging for a lost ferret when he came upon some large stones of a peculiar shape, and they were subsequently excavated. All the stones were found imbedded perpendicularly in the post-tertiary formation of the district, their ends nearest the surface being about three feet below it, and all upon the same level. Some of the stones are not more than three feet in length, others nearly seven. The top soil of the hollow was loam to the depth of about two-and-a-half feet; below this is pure yellow sand, lying in horizontal strata. In the loam above the stones were found bits of (perhaps mediaeval) pottery, some bones of a young horse, and a small portion of apparently half-burnt bones, with a few small oyster shells.

Professor Sedgewick visited the stones last summer, and at once pronounced them to be natural sandstone formations, produced probably by infiltration of lime, and very peculiar from their columnal character.

The sandstone composing them in horizontal strata, similar to that of the soft sand around. One of the stones is so like a small column, with a weatherworn capital, that it is difficult not to imagine it the rude work of human hands; and upon first entering the excavation the group is singularly striking, reminding one of the (so-called) Druidical erections on a small scale.

NOTE: This short article, together with the accompanying sketches, was published by "H.K. Creed" in the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archeology & Natural History (Vol. IV, Page 244-1864/4). Unfortunately we have been unable to ascertain the exact location of these stones (which have long since disappeared) but they were probably in what is now known as 'Mutford Big Wood' $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile NE of Mutford Church.

Three years ago that excellent magazine PICWINNARD, edited by Vince Russett, went out of circulation. We understand that it is soon to be re-launched under the joint editorship of Vince Russett and Jeremy Harte with the new title EARTH GIANT. It will be produced in A5 litho and will cover geomancy, folklore and the paranormal in the Wessex region, with emphasis on Somerset and Dorset. To date we do not have details concerning frequency of publication, subscription rates etc., but full details can be obtained by writing to 35A West Street, Abbotsbury, Weymouth Dorset. If EARTH GIANT maintains the same high standards as PICWINNARD did then it deserves all your support; we wish all those involved "good luck" in their new project.



Hoax of the broads.....cont'd

ghosts will soon realise that these are not the usual run-of-the-mill 'spook stories'. Oh no! Charles Sampson was unconcerned with mysterious footprints, grey ladies, black dogs and other more 'mundane' apparitions. He went for the dramatic ones of grandeur or terror, often with a complete alteration of the local landscape to that of a former time: what I like to call 'phantom pageantry'. At least seven of the tales definitely fall into this category: Wroxham, Salhouse, South Walsham, Horning, Brundall, Horsey and Beccles. Two others also include a transformation of the landscape, namely Burgh Castle and St. Benet's. He seems also to have had a predilection for ships and skeletons.

The characters in the stories are somewhat on the grand side as well. Here I will swiftly run through the chapters, giving the dates when the events are supposed to have occurred, and my comments on the historicity of the main characters and the things which Sampson claims for them:

1)(C3): MARCUS AURELIUS VALERIUS CARAUSIUS: he existed, and siezed control of Britain in 286 AD; but his third name may have been Mauseus, he was not 'Count of the Saxon Shore', nor indeed Count of anything. FLAVIUS MANTUS: an unrecorded but plausible name; he may have been 'Custos Rotulorum', but I cannot trace this office in Roman times.

2)(I85I): 'BLOOD' STEVENSON, MR. DORMEY etc: all non-existent.
3)(c.1840): BERT ISAAC, WILLIAM ETHELWISTLE: the only full names given. Untraceable.
4)(C5): SIBERG, CERDAG, GONARD, PROPAR, BEID-ASCH: all unknown, but the first two could possibly be corruptions of the Saxon names Sigebert and Cerdic.
5)(CII): MARQUIS RAOUL DE CHASSAGNE: non-existent; he was not the 'royal standard-bearer' to William the Conqueror. This was the privilege of Ralph de Toesny, although Turston Fitz-Rou bore the banner in the Battle of Hastings. Nor did William grant the lordship of Salhouse to him; he granted it to Ralph de Bello-fago.
6)(no date): a rather vague tale of ghostly ships battling on Breydon Water, which Sampson's 'witness' suggests could be a reenactment of the landing on the E. coast of the Saxon chief ELLE in 447 (actually, Aelle landed on the S. coast in 477). Then Sampson himself calls it but one version of a phantom battle that occurs in many ports, especially in Plymouth Sound, where "the skipper of the death ship" is a C17 pirate named JOHN KING. This legend is actually unknown at Plymouth. John King was a pirate, but was executed in 1704 in Plymouth, Massachusetts.
7)("in the days of the Crusades"): LADY EDYTHE: impossible to trace.
8)(I74I): SIR GODFREY HASLITT, EVELYN LADY MONTEFIORE CAREW: both non-existent. There is no record of their marriage in Norwich Cathedral on May 31st, 1741. The title-

name 'Carew' (a Barony) was not even created until 1834.

9)(C5): OSCAR, SATURN: unknown 'Vikings'.
10)(C5): KING ELLE: Aelle existed all right, but CISSA was his son, not his brother, and they both landed near Selsea Bill in 477. Aelle was King of Sussex, not of E. Anglia, and never came anywhere near Norfolk.

11)(no date): no named characters.

12)(no date): JOSIAH BURGE: untraceable.

13)(c.IIOI): ADAM MORLAND: untraceable.

14)(no date): the only character here is a colossal giant named Gradabor. He is supposed to have had a Cornish brother named Blunderbore, but there are no legends of him.

15)(no date): KING EDMUND: the last Saxon King of E. Anglia, slain 869 by the Danes. He did not have a 'court' at Reedham. LOTH-BROCK: this is Ragnarr Loðbrók, a traditional figure of dubious historicity. BERN: Beorn in some old tales; another character of legend. LORD BENJAMIN BERNIEY: non-existent. HINGUOR, HUBBA: really Ivar the Boneless and Ubbi, two brothers who in tradition led the 'Great Danish Army' to Britain in 866.

16)(no date): LADY ALYS COVERILL: non-existent. OLAF HARALDSSON: King of Norway who lived c.995-1030. It is possible but by no means certain that he helped England against the Danes; he was declared a saint not for this, but for his attempt to Christianise Norway.

17)(('Roman times')): the only identifiable character in this tale, though not named, is Jesus Christ.

18)(CI7?): no full names given.

19)(('Norse times')): no named characters.

20)(CI4): NANCY DIVER, PETER HARRIS etc: all fictitious; and Beccles had no Mayor until 1835.

21)(no date): the only character in this story is 'Willum the Gimpie', who is not actually stated to have had any real existence.

22)(C20): PRINCESS VERA: non-existent. There was no famous singer known as the 'Russian Nightingale'.

23)(CI4?): SIR OLIVER DE INGHAM, SIR ROGER DE BOIS: Sampson's information on these two local men is taken straight from Suffling's 'Land of the Broads', but Sir Oliver did not found the priory college at Ingham, since it was founded 17 years after he died.

24)(CII): BROTHER VERITAS: apart from the concluding ghost, this is a legend of long standing; but in every other version, the treacherous monk is named Ethelwold.

25a)(1538): BROTHER PACIFICUS: untraceable.

25b)(1770): COL. THE HON. THOMAS SIDNEY: he

seems to have been a genuine personage, though the local press was silent on his mysterious disappearance. His name is rather confusing, Sidney, Sidley and Sisney all being recorded. The Ranworth parish registers mention an "Hon. Col. Thomas Sisney" whose son Robert was baptised on Dec. 15th, 1712.

As will be seen from the central characters used, the stories in 'Ghosts of the Broads' are a conglomeration of twisted history, genuine tradition, and sheer fiction. Apart from that of Col. Sidney (already well-known in 1892), NONE of the actual ghosts included are recorded before Sampson in 1931. But the background to some of the stories were or may have been in prior existence. Those that definitely were are Reedham and St. Benet's. Those that may have been are slightly more difficult to decide.

David Johnston in 1974 noted "a persistent record of Roman soldiers seen marching on a lost Roman road through what is now Wroxham Broad". This could be a garbled memory of Sampson's tale, or it could be a genuine, independent phenomenon on which Sampson based his story: I have yet to determine which.

The legend of the ghostly wherry 'Mayfly' of Oulton is another problem. I have found three versions, from Sampson, J.W. Day (1951) and Roy Clark (1961). Each is very different, and may ultimately be based on a vague tradition of a phantom wherry on the Waveney.

All the others are total rubbish! That of Chapter 3 (Thurne) is a typical 'folkloric' tale, in which a man tells the narrator (Sampson) a saga of murder and revenge, and in the end reveals that he himself is a ghost, and vanishes. In Chapter 4, the Danes are described as assailing the Saxons at Burgh Castle in the 5th century; but the Danes never came to Britain before 789 AD! In Chapter 10, we have the 'Lord Abbot of Norwich and St. Benet's' coming to Horning in the 5th century; but besides the incorrect title, and besides the fact that the two offices were not combined in one person until 1536, neither abbot nor bishop existed for another 500 years! Sampson creates similar confusion with these two offices throughout the whole book. Chapter 16 (Belaugh) is a glorious fiction, bringing together at one moment a non-existent woman of the 17th century, and a genuine king and saint of the 11th. But to what purpose?

Concerning ghost-stories, Sampson's son, Dr. C.A.J. Sampson, wrote to me: "I don't doubt that much of such writing is

fiction, however the authors may present it". I disagree strongly. The tales themselves may be fictitious (though I would at least expect them to be known in local tradition), but when the author embellishes, exaggerates, and dresses them up in a spurious background, complete with non-existent witnesses, source-books, references, characters and distorted history, then it has to be considered whether or not a deliberate deception is intended.

Sampson's book is a 'Hoax of the Broads' that has fooled many people for over 50 years. If you buy it, be warned!

For help in the search for Charles Sampson, I would like to thank the following: Mr. A.E. Reynolds Brown; Dr. C.A.J. Sampson; Miss G. Cooper, British Library; Miss M.N. Slade, British Red Cross Soc.; Mr. D.N. Cox, Royal College of Physicians; Mr. D.W.C. Stewart, Royal Society of Medicine; Major C.O. Leary, The Worshipful Soc. of Apothecaries of London.

For help in other aspects of this investigation, my thanks go to: Mr. C. J. Mitchell, British Library; Ms. M. Clapinson, Dept. of Western Mss., Bodleian Library; Ms. E.O. Keefe, Soc. for Psychological Research; Mrs. D.M. Owen, Keeper of the Archives, Cambridge University; Mr. J.R. Elliott, Plymouth Library; Mr. E.W. Butler; Mr. C. Wilkins-Jones, Norwich Library; Mr. H.V. Smith, Senior Sub-sacrist, Norwich Cathedral; Miss J.M. Kennedy, Norfolk and Norwich Record Office; Mr. D. Anderson, Norfolk Wherry Trust; Miss G. Cooper, Science Reference Library. Blomefield, F. 'History of Norfolk', 1805-10. Clark, R. 'Black-Sailed Traders', 1961.

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plus: Authors & Writers Who's Who, British Authors before 1800, British Authors of the 19th Century, Bryans Dictionary of Painters & Engravers, Burke's Extinct

Peerages, Burke's Landed Gentry, Burke's Peerage, Cox's County Who's Who, Crockford's Clerical Directory, Dictionary of National Biography, Granger's Index to Poetry, Kelly's Directories of Norfolk, Suffolk & Cambs., Kelly's Handbook to the Titled, Landed & Official Classes, New Cambridge Bibliography of English Lit., Norfolk Bibliography, White's Directories of Norfolk & Suffolk, Who's Who in Norfolk, Who Was Who.



2 new books have recently come to our notice: **Hitler's Secret Sciences**, by Nigel Pennick; Neville Spearman £6.50 & **Earth Rites**, by Janet & Colin Bord, Granada, £8.95 (both published on April 29.) Reviews of both will appear in the next issue of LANTERN.



From: 'News Chronicle' 27/2/1933

Parishoners of Middleton, near Sudbury, Suffolk demonstrated yesterday because the church and grounds had been closed to the public. When the police moved them on they held a protest meeting in a barn and decided to meet again next Sunday.

The Rector, Rev. Clive Luget and Dr. Thonber claim to have seen visions of the Virgin Mary, and Dr. Thonber yesterday repeated that he had seen a vision of the Virgin Mary on the lawn.

From: 'Eastern Daily Press' 4/11/81

A cesspit uncovered at St. Martin's Palace P-ain has revealed important facts about life in Norman Norwich....

The first recorded find of hops has been made on the site, and the man in charge, Mr. Brian Ayres, believes the first beer in the country may have been brewed in Norwich....



Exchange Magazines

SKYWATCH: Informal journal of UFO discussion. Enquiries to D.Rees, 92 Hillcrest Road Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire. SK2 5SE.

THE LEY HUNTER: UK's leading journal of earth mysteries. UK Sub.£3.60; Europe £4.50; Overseas Airmail \$12.50. From P.O.Box 13, Welshpool, Powys, Wales.

ZETETIC SCHOLAR: Independent scientific review of claims of anomalies and the paranormal. Published twice yearly, sub. \$11.50, From Dept., of Sociology, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197, USA.

FORTEAN TIMES: Quarterly journal of notes, news, reviews and references on current & historical strange phenomena, related subjects & philosophies. Edited by RJM Rickard. Annual sub £4.00/\$10.00. From RM-Fortean Times, London, WC1N 3XX.

LINCOLNSHIRE DRAGON: Quarterly magazine of earth mysteries, folklore, strange phenomena etc. Annual sub £2.00 (single copy 65p) from 16 Packhorse Lane, Swineshead, Boston, Lincs PE20 3JE.

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SANGREAL: The quarterly journal of the mysteries of Britain; evokes the spirit of Merlin's Isle thru magic and legend, crafts and undying traditions. Single issue 75p post free. Annual sub., £2.75 (Overseas \$8.00 by surface mail). From 1 St.Martins Court, Chickereil Road, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 0BN

WOOD & WATER: a radical, ecopagan, anarcna-feminist magazine dedicated to sacred places and the ways of the Goddess & the God. Single copy 65p incl.P&P or £2.50 for 4 issues. From 142 Bedford hill, Balham, London SW 12.

ESSEX LANDSCAPE MYSTERIES: A quarterly magazine of antiquities, folklore & paraphenomena in the county of Essex. Single copy 50p, annual sub. £2.00, Edited by Jim Kimmis; from, Box Cottage, 14 East Mill, Halstead, Essex.

QUICKSILVER MESSENGER: Earth mysteries, folklore, strange phenomena etc in the S.E. of England. 4 Issue sub. UK £3.20; Europe £4.50; Elsewhere \$15.00. from Garden Flat, 46 Vere Road, Brighton, Sussex.

(More on page 12)

NO BONES ABOUT IT!

It is odd how every so often out of place human skeletons and bones turn up when least expected. The latest such find was a human skull unearthed during excavations at Castle Acre castle, Norfolk, in March this year. The skull, probably that of a 16th century woman or young person, was described as "decidedly curious" by Mr. J. Coad, a DoE inspector of ancient monuments. He added. "...no one has any idea why we should suddenly find such a thing and it is a mystery how it got there." Mr. Coad said that it was very unusual to find a skull with no body in the moat of a castle (the head was discovered in an inner moat behind the barbican). Eastern Daily Press 23/3/1982.

In September, 1981, a 'bag full' of human bones were unearthed by a mechanical digger at Beccles, Suffolk. These bones enough for 2 or 3 skeletons were found in the grounds of 16th century Grove House. Their age has not been assessed, and there is no record of a graveyard or any finds of archaeological interest on the site. Eastern Daily Press; 10/9/1981.

Two human skeletons, probably dating from the middle ages, were discovered one on top of the other, in the garden of a cottage in Blythburgh, Suffolk in October, 1977. How or why they were there is not known. East Anglian Daily Times, 4/10/1977.

Finally, there was a story circulating in October 1978, that a human skeleton had "turned-up" on the North Beach at Lowestoft, but no one has been able to substantiate it; the police denied it.

East Anglian Daily

Times, 20/10/1978.



The latest issue of THE SUPERNATURALIST (No.2) is a fascinating and well illustrated 72 page account of a series of events that took place in the Autumn of 1979. Entitled THE SWORD AND THE STONE it relates a true story of mystery, intrigue and the supernatural. Available from Andy Collins, 19 St.Davids Way, Wickford, Essex, SS1 8EX, price £1.70 inc. postage. *RECOMMENDED*

East Anglian HAUNTS NO.2 St. Benet's Abbey

The scant ruins of St.Benets are to be found in the heart of Norfolk's 'Broadland' on the windswept marshes close to the river Bure some 10 miles NW of Gt.Yarmouth. Of this once great and flourishing abbey, founded c800 A.D., very little now remains save the shell of a once-proud gateway in which stands, somewhat incongruously, the ruins of an 18th century windmill. It is hardly surprising that such an ancient site has its share of legends and ghost stories. One story, recorded by W.Gerish in his unpublished Norfolk Folklore (1890/2) tells of how, after the Norman Conquest, the Abbey of St. Benet-at-Holm (to give it its full title) was one of the 'strongholds' which held out against the invaders. The Abbey finally fell after a monk named Ethelwold or Elwold let the besieging Normans in late at night after their captain promised him "...The highest position in the Abbey..." if he helped them. After the Abbey had fallen the Captain kept his word (after a fashion) and hanged Ethelwold from the gate, which was the highest position in the Abbey. This story is elaborated on by C. Sampson in his Ghosts of the Broads, who says that on May 25th each year the grim scene of the execution of Ethelwold is reenacted at night when the whole Abbey appears for a moment as it did 900 years ago. This story seems to be rather fanciful than factual.

Not all of the monks of St.Benets were so easily tempted. Another legend tells how a young monk who, becoming dissatisfied with his life, threw off his vows and led a life of profanity and debauchery. One day he was seized bodily by the Devil who was about to carry him off when the monk's Patron Saint appeared, fought and defeated the "Evil One", causing him to relinquish the monk. Whereupon the latter went back to the Abbey and became a most devout member of that community.

The ghost of a monk from St.Benets is said to haunt the nearby river Thurne. According to J.Wentworth Day in his book Marshland Adventure, he can be seen during the night, accompanied by a dog, pulling steadily on the oars of a rowing boat as he heads away from the Abbey in the direction of Ranworth. In the imposing church at Ranworth is a beautiful 15th century Rood Screen which, it is said, was restored and redecorated in the 16th century by a monk named Pacificus, whose ghost is said to frequent the church to this day - perhaps Pacificus came from St.Benets and the ghost in the rowing boat is none other than he travelling nightly from the Abbey to keep an eye on his handiwork!

FROM: Eastern Daily Press, 1/2/1982.

'MYSTERY OF TUNNELS AT OLD SMITHY'

Mysterious man-made tunnels have come to light under an old Norfolk smithy. Villagers at Gt.Walsingham are baffled by the discovery - none more than retired blacksmith Stanley Bacon. He worked there for 20 years not knowing of the caverns 6 feet under his anvil. It was his son, Alan, who found the tunnels while digging out a hole in the floor of the smithy for a car inspection pit.

"The Ground suddenly caved in under the

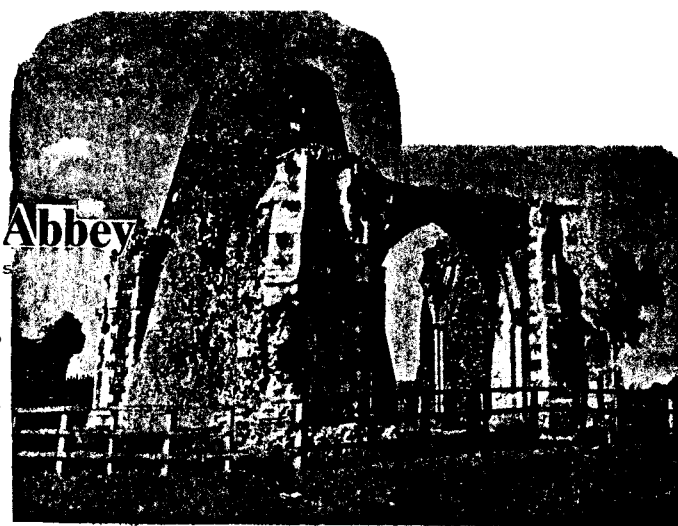
digger's bucket," said Mr. Bacon, senior, now 68.

He and a friend, Mr.Eric Seaman, both of Mount Pleasant, Gt.Walsingham, spent Saturday trying to puzzle out what the tunnels were for and when they could have been built.

The tunnels are man-sized, their floors 12 feet below ground level. They are faced with brick and flint, with neat brick arches and corner work. One large chamber measures 7 feet square. One of the tunnels is blocked with rubbish.

"There used to be a mill and a brewery nearby, but the tunnels do not line up

(cont on p.12)



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